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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 34-39 and 50-54 are now pending.

REMARKS

Claims 34-39 and 50-54 are now pending in this application, claims 1-33 and 40-49 having been canceled and claims 50-54 having been added. Claims 34 and 37 are the independent claims.

To ensure compliance with MPEP 608.01(o), the Summary portion of the specification has been amended to include the language of claim 34. Since in accordance with MPEP 608.01(l) claim 34 is an original part of the specification, no new matter has been added.

Claim 37 has been amended above to attend to an informality noted by the Applicants.

THE REJECTIONS

Claims 34 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohodar, U.S. Patent No. 5,012,335 in view of Endo, JP 06183788 A. Claims 35, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohodar and Endo and Grad, U.S. Patent No. 5,794,125. Claim 39 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohodar and Endo and Roberts et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,873,711. These rejections are hereby traversed for at least the following reasons.

Enclosed herewith for the Examiner's review is a manual translation of the Endo reference prepared by Patent Translations Inc. at the request of Applicants.

THE INVENTION

As set forth in independent claim 34, a vehicle-mounted base station is provided in a vehicle-mounted video surveillance system that includes a recording device. The base station is used with a wireless microphone that is operational-mode switchable in response to an RF activation signal. The base station includes an input coupled to receive an operational status signal from the video surveillance system indicative of an operational status of the recording device. The base station also includes a controller

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coupled to the input to receive the operational status signal and for generating an RF activation signal when the operational status signal indicates that the recording device is in a recording mode. The base station further includes an RF transmitter arranged for transmitting the RF activation signal to the wireless microphone to switch the wireless microphone into a transmit mode from a standby mode.

THE ENDO REFERENCE

Before addressing the claim rejections directly, Applicants wish to clarify the functionality of the operating element 40 shown in Endo. In Endo, the operating element 40 is merely used to activate and deactivate the audio input source; it does not appear to activate the video recorder as well. For instance, in monitoring mode, the operating element 40 serves as a switch or button to turn the wireless microphone 2 on and off (paragraph 23). In selection mode, operating element 40 serves to switch between wireless microphone 2 and a local microphone connected to input terminal 3A (paragraphs 25 and 26). In normal mode, the control circuit 42 activates the wireless microphone 2 (by generating a signal that switches the switch 46 to the on state) in response to the operation of a "record-start operating element" and deactivates the wireless microphone 2 in response to operating a "record-stop operating element" (see paragraph 28). As far as Applicants can discern, the record-start and the record-stop operating elements are not shown or described in any further detail in Endo, but presumably they are a distinct element or elements from the operating element 40.

The Examiner asserts that Endo shows an input that is coupled to receive an operational status signal from the video surveillance system indicative of an operational status of the recording device. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the Endo input to control circuit 42 corresponds to the operational status input of Claim 34. To the contrary, the control circuit 42 does not receive an operational status signal. Rather, the Endo control circuit 42 receives an audio activation command signal from operating element 40 for the purposes of controlling wireless microphone 2. As figure 1 of Endo indicates, the audio activation command signal, which is user generated by pressing operating element 40, commands the control circuit 42 to transmit a signal to turn the wireless microphone on and off (in monitoring mode) and to switch between the wireless

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microphone 2 and a local microphone connected to input terminal 3A (in selection mode). As such, the audio activation command signal provided by operating element 40 does not contain any information regarding whether recording is occurring, nor could it. No recording in Endo could occur until the record-start operating element is manually operated. Further, even when recording is activated via the record-start operating element, Endo does not indicate that this information is transmitted back to the control circuit 42. Endo discloses only that the control circuit 42 is capable of relaying a manual audio activation command pertaining to the wireless and local microphones.

Accordingly, the Endo command signal received by control circuit 42 does not *indicate that the recording device is in a recording mode*, as required by claim 34, and thus the command signal does not in fact correspond to the claimed operational status signal. Moreover, the remaining references cited by the Examiner also fail to show this claimed feature of the invention. Accordingly, for at least this reason it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claim 34 and the claims that depend therefrom under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants believe independent claim 37 is allowable for at least those reasons presented above in connection with claim 34. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claim 37 and the claims that depend therefrom under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Fees

If there are any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence and any document referenced herein is being sent to the United States Patent and Trademark office via Facsimile to: 703-872-9306 on March 24, 2005.

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